

Molly Hass

Dear Gary Paulsen,

I loved your book Hatchet. It influenced my life a lot. I realized that when I get knocked down I need to get up, dust myself off, and try again. Feeling sorry for myself won't help. A lot of times I try and fail and all I want to do is shout, "All right, that's it! Enough! I quit!" Your book helped me to remind myself, "Okay, this time I failed, but I'll get it next time!"

Also, I learned not to wait on someone else to do something for me. I can't sit around thinking everyone else will provide for me. There are things I need to do that *only* I can do. Sitting around for someone to come rescue me doesn't always work. I have to stand up and start doing something. If someone along the way comes to my aid that's great, but if not I'm on my own.

Your book taught me a different way to look at the world. It taught me to see nature and take in all it's beauty, to take time to smell the roses and feel the rain, to appreciate life and all it has in store for me. There will probably be a time in the world when

everything is glass or chrome, when there isn't any nature to appreciate. I don't know when or if the time will come, so I need to cherish nature now. I need to pay attention to the beauty and wonder God has so graciously provided for us.

In addition, I absorbed lots of information on surviving in the wilderness. This will be very helpful to me because I love to explore and have adventures; consequently, this leads to getting lost.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate you on an extraordinary book and thank you for writing it. I eagerly await the chance to read your other novels.

Sincerely,
Molly Hass